

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-11 and 17-21 were previously pending in the application.

Claims 2-4 and 12-16 were previously canceled.

Claims 17-20 are currently cancelled.

The remaining claims presented for allowance are claims 1, 5-11 and 21.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following:

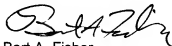
Argument for filing Amendment After Appeal

37 C.F.R. 41.33(b)(1) allows for the filing of an amendment after the filing of an appeal brief to "cancel claims, where such cancellation does not affect the scope of any other pending claims in the proceeding." Claims 17-20 depended from claim 16, which was previously cancelled. No other claims depend from claims 17-20. Therefore, cancelling claims 17-20 does not affect the scope of any other pending claim in the proceeding.

Entry of this amendment and the allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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